

**AN INTELLIGENT BLEMISH CONTROL ALGORITHM  
AND APPARATUS**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

An image processing method and apparatus is described for processing a  
5 signal from a monochrome or color sensor that may be subject to pixel defects or blemishes.  
Without prior knowledge of any pixel defects, the processing method examines each pixel  
value and its neighboring pixel values. A number of tests are applied to the set of pixel  
values to determine whether the underlying pixel is defective. If the underlying pixel is  
determined to be defective, the pixel value is replaced by an estimate value derived from the  
10 values of its neighboring pixels. Otherwise, the pixel value remains intact.

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